



U.S. Small Business Administration

# ***DISASTER NEWS***

*Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses*

**Release Date:** February 24, 2009

**Release Number:** ID 11667-01

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## ***Disaster Assistance Available for Agricultural-Dependent Small Businesses***

**Sacramento, CA** - Small, non-farm businesses in five Idaho counties (plus neighboring counties in Oregon and Washington) may now apply for low-interest disaster loans from the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA). "These disaster loans offset economic losses because of reduced revenues caused by the combined effects of drought, excessive heat, cooler than normal springtime temperatures and frost that occurred from January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008 in two primary Idaho counties," said Alfred E. Judd, Director of SBA's Disaster Field Operations Center-West.

Small businesses in the following primary and neighboring counties may apply for working capital loans to offset economic losses that are attributable to the disaster.

Primary Idaho Counties: Lewis and Nez Perce;

Neighboring Idaho Counties: Clearwater, Idaho and Latah;

Neighboring Oregon County: Wallowa;

Neighboring Washington Counties: Asotin and Whitman.

Small businesses and most private, non-profit organizations of any size may qualify for Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) of up to \$2 million to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses which could have been met had the disaster not occurred. "Eligibility for these loans is based on the financial impact of the disaster only and not on any actual property damage. These loans have an interest rate of 4%, a maximum term of 30 years, and are restricted to small businesses without the financial ability to offset the adverse impact without hardship," Judd said.

By law, SBA makes EIDLs available when the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture designates an agricultural disaster. Secretary Tom Vilsack declared this disaster at the request of Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter. Businesses primarily engaged in farming or ranching are not eligible for SBA disaster assistance. Agricultural enterprises should contact the Farm Services Agency (FSA) about the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) assistance made available by the Secretary's declaration. However, in drought disasters nurseries are eligible for SBA disaster assistance.

Information and application forms are available from SBA's Customer Service Center by calling (800) 659-2955, emailing [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov), or visiting SBA's website at [www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance](http://www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance). Hearing impaired individuals may call (800) 877-8339.

SBA's Electronic Loan Application (ELA) is accessible via SBA's secure website at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>.

The deadline to apply is **October 19, 2009**.

*For more information visit SBA's website at [www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance](http://www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance).*

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